श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : माननीय सभापति जी, मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि जिस तरह से गरीबों को सस्ता गेहूं उपलब्ध कराया जाता है, उसी तरह से क्या गरीबों को सस्ती चाय उपलब्ध कराने की सरकार की योजना है ?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : Sir at present there is no such scheme.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 369, Shri Shivajirao Giridhar Patil.

SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL : Sir, Question No. 369.

Sale of Edible Oil

@369. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the edible oil is allowed to be marketed without 'AGMARK';

(b) whether it is also a fact that because of this many oil traders are indulging in adulteration of oil on a large scale and selling oil at cheaper rates thereby affecting the price level of edible oil produced under the scheme sponsored by NDDB;

(c) it so, the details of steps taken to stop this malpractices;

(d) whether it is a fact that prices of oil seeds have fallen which could cause diversion of oil seed farmers to other crops;

(e) whether it is also a fact that a Market Intervention Operation is not applicable to Sun Flower which is a very good oil seed but does not have the support price; and

(f) if so, what corrective measures Government proposed to undertake ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A. K. ANTONY) : (a) to (c) Blended edible oils can be marketed only under Agmark. However, other liquid oil are required to conform to statutory requirements laid down under Prevention of Food Adulteration rules. Agmark is basically a voluntary scheme. There is no report from any State/UT Administrations to indicate any large scale adulteration of edible oil sold by private trade or private trade selling oil at any cheap rate.

(d) Prices of oilseeds and oils in the current year have declined. Cultivation of any crop depend on several factors besides the price of produce.

(e) and (f) Support price announced during 1992-93 for sunflower seeds is Rs. 800/- per quintal as against Rs. 670/- per quintal 1991-92—an increase of 19%. Sunflower is included under price support operation by NAFED. NAFED has made elaborate arrangement for procurement of oil seeds.

NDDB is the designated agency for Market Intervention Operation of oilseeds and oils. NDDB is marketing sunflower oil.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour is over.

@Previously Starred Question 349, transferred from 19th March, 1993.